

REMARKS

As a preliminary, Applicants and Applicants' representative thank the Examiner for the Personal Interview which was held on November 10, 2004.

By the present amendment, claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the polarizing member comprises, in this order: (i) the absorption type polarizing film, (ii) an adhesive layer, and (iii) the polymer material-containing layer which is a separator having a polymer material migration preventing layer provided thereon, and that the polymer material migration preventing is provided on the side of the separator that faces the adhesive layer. Support for this amendment is found in the original application, in particular in paragraph [0030], page 17 of the original specification.

Accordingly, claims 18 and 24 have been cancelled, and claim 19 has been amended to use the term "polymer material-containing layer."

Claims 1-16, 19, 21-23 and 25-26 are pending in the present application. Independent claims 1, 9 and 10, claims 2 and 21 dependent on claim 1, claim 23 dependent on claim 9, and claims 11-14, 19 and 25-26 dependent directly or indirectly on claim 10, are directed to a polarizing member. Claim 3 dependent on claim 1, and claims 4-6 and 22 dependent on claim 3, are directed to an optical member. Claims 7 and 8 dependent on claims 1 and 3, respectively, and claims 15-16 dependent on claim 7, are directed to a liquid crystal display.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 15-16, and 21-23 are allowed, but claims 10, 12-14, 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,048,933 to Asano ("Asano"), and claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Asano in view of US 6,153,272 to Kim et al. (Kim) and claims 18 and 24-26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over

Asano in view of US 5,880,800 to Mikura et al. ("Mikura").

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. As discussed in the personal interview, the absorption type polarizing film, the adhesive layer, and the polymer material-containing layer which is a separator are arranged in this order, and the migration preventing layer is provided on the side of the separator that faces the adhesive layer, as recited in present claim 10. The cited references are completely silent regarding these features. Specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the cited references regarding a migration preventing layer that would prevent migration of polymer material from the separator. Therefore, the present invention as recited in present claim 10 and the claims dependent thereon is not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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